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RD-29,941

Remarks

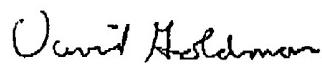
Applicant carefully considered the Office Action mailed on April 22, 2004. Claims 1-16 are pending in the present patent application. Of the pending claims, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 8-12, 15 and 16. In addition, the Examiner objected to claims 5-7, 13 and 14, but indicated that these claims contain subject matter that would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response to the Office Action, Applicant amended claims 1 and 10 and canceled claims 5 and 13. The subject matter of claims 5 and 13 have been incorporated into claims 1 and 10 respectively, to overcome the 35 USC §102(b) rejection. In addition, Applicant amended claims 6, 7 and 14 to maintain proper claim dependency. Applicant requests further examination and reconsideration of the present patent application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 8-12, 15 and 16 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Kong, US Patent 6,216,092 (hereinafter Kong). Applicant has overcome this rejection by canceling claim 5 and amending claim 1 by incorporating the allowable subject matter of claim 5 into claim 1. The Applicant has also overcome the rejection by canceling claims 13 which the Examiner indicated contained allowable subject matter, and incorporating the subject matter therefrom into claim 10. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and remove the §102(b) rejection of claims 1-4, 8-12, 15 and 16 under Kong.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider this application and allow claims 1-4, 6-12 and 14-16.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding the present patent application, the Examiner can call Applicant's attorney, David Goldman, at telephone number (518)-387-5927 or (518)-387-5903.

Respectfully submitted,



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